

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite a “composition” rather than a “compound,” as proposed by the Examiner. Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to be consistent with amended Claim 1.

Applicants have made editorial amendments to Claim 10.

No new matter has been added.

Referring to the §112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 1-12, Applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a “composition” rather than a “compound,” as proposed by the Examiner.

In addition, the word “parts” is well-known and would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art. If one presumes a composition of 1 kg with 100 parts basic polymer, 3 parts photoinitiator, 3 parts crosslinker, and 5 parts stabilizer (other additives are not considered) then the composition has 111 parts. The parts then correspond to 901 g or 90.1% by weight basic polymer, 27 g or 2.7% by weight photoinitiator and crosslinker, respectively, and 45 g or 4.5% by weight stabilizer. With another quantity of the composition, the mentioned values change.

Turning to the remainder of the Office Action, the claims are rejected as follows:

Claims 1-2, 4, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 0 490 854 (“EP ‘854”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,154 to Martinotto, *et al.* (“Martinotto”);

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP ‘854 in view of Martinotto, and further

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in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,059 to Kobayashi, *et al.* (“Kobayashi”);

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,488,882 to Lau, *et al.* in view of Martinotto;

Claims 1-2 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lau in view of Martinotto, and further in view of Kobayashi; and

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Martinotto, and further in view of Lau.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the rejections.

The inventors have found a novel and unobvious method that advantageously uses an alkylbenzophenone to form a composition.

Applicants do not doubt that certain photoinitiators exist and are known to be usable in connection with crosslinking by UV light. The inventors, however, have discovered that a particular photoinitiator - namely alkylbenzophenones - can advantageously be used together with any desired thermoplastic material to form a composition. Paragraph [06]. With the claimed alkylbenzophenone, it is possible to decrease the amount of additives, as recited in Claim 1, to as low as 0.2 parts for photoinitiator and crosslinker, respectively. Specifically, with the invention of Claim 1, there are **0.2** to 3 parts of alkylbenzophenone and **0.2** to 3 parts of a crosslinker.

EP ‘854, for example, starts with 0.5 wt% photoinitiator and 0.5 wt% crosslinker.

Furthermore, each of the above rejections employs Martinotto as a secondary reference. Martinotto, however, teaches a completely different crosslinking method, namely a “vulcanising tube.” Column 1, line 50. The benzophenone with an alkyl substitution only is a “voltage

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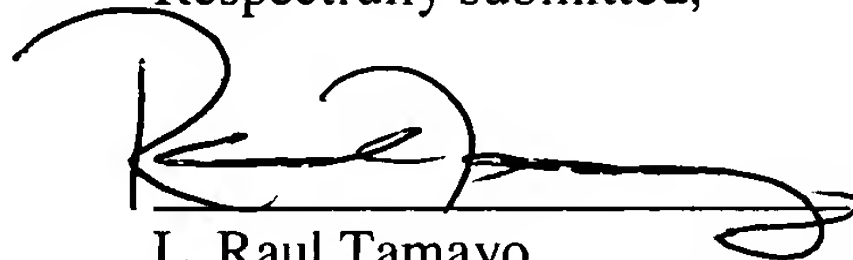
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stabiliser" (abstract) for the insulating cover layer of an electrical cable. Martinotto provides no teaching on using such a material in connection with crosslinking.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Raul Tamayo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 19, 2004